

any priest could validly perform the marriage ceremony and this ruling has been the one observed. Now, however, the Sacred Roman Congregation has decided differently and about three years ago declared dissolved several marriages because they had not been performed by the pastors. Therefore, in France, Germany, and England, etc., there are hundreds and thousands of marriages which since the above official declaration of the Sacred Congregation can also be dissolved.

In the Italian army led by General Barratiere and defeated by Negus of Abyssinia, there were many Catholic husbands. During the war many of these disappeared, it not being certain whether they had been killed or taken captive. Some years later a number of their presumed widows, asked for permission to remarry, which the Sacred Congregation granted. I do not particularly blame the Sacred Congregation for this action, but have merely cited the instance to show the pharisaical hypocrisy of those Catholics who are ever pointing to the mote in the eyes of others, but who can not see the beam in their own.

Furthermore, according to Roman Canonical Law any marriage not performed by a Roman Catholic pastor is not marriage at all; the non-Christian husband or wife who becomes Catholic can dissolve his or her former marriage; marriage between Protestant and Catholic is not marriage in itself; civil marriage is not marriage, but concubinage (textual words of Pius IX). Is it not tremendous audacity on the part of the Roman Catholics to declare themselves the apostles of the indissolubility of marriage when they preach and teach that more than eighty per cent of American marriages can be dissolved and the parties to same marry others?

Finally, there is another very dangerous Roman doctrine concerning marriage. According to Roman Canonical Law and Ethics, either the husband or wife can dissolve the marriage within three months after its performance, if either decides to enter a religious order. Can we imagine a more fearful stroke at the indissolubility of marriage than this? Perhaps, though, the editor of Mr. Blenk's paper may contend that this doctrine has never resulted in any harm? Permit me then to produce two cases from among thousands—one very old, the other quite recent. In the Middle Ages, during that calamitous epoch known as the "Babylonian Captivity," one of the German emperors, a majority of the Franciscan order and many prelates and cardinals elected and recommended as Pope, Peter Corbary. After the consecration a woman approached the new Pope and exclaimed, "I allowed you to be a friar, but am not willing for you to be Pope, consequently, you must either return to the convent or else receive me as your wife." No more than eight years ago a physician in Valencia, Spain, asked permission from his wife to become a Capuchin friar. About four years ago he left the order by dispensation of the Pope, and now with such a dispensation he can marry another woman and his former wife another man.

To deal with facts—if we consider the question of public morals among the nations with unprejudiced minds we will soon discover that Roman Catholic countries furnish far more scandals than do Protestant

countries. When I was in Rome, a prominent prelate, whose name I am ready to disclose should the editor of the Morning Star demand it, told me that frequently, in Roman Catholic marriages, there exists a private contract, by which husband and wife are permitted to maintain illicit and unspeakable relations and that the Papacy prefers, knowingly, to tolerate such corruptions rather than allow divorce.

Rome itself furnishes more illegitimate children, relatively, than any other civilized city.

In Spain, about ten years ago, while dealing with this subject, Silvela, then Prime Minister, proved against Nocedal, the echo then of Romanism and Jesuitism, that the province of Guipuzcua, the peculiar stronghold of Jesuitism and the most Roman Catholic part of the county, furnished more illegitimate children than any other province.

I do not know American statistics well enough to make comparisons here; but I do know that according to Archbishop Quigley, Chicago, New York and San Francisco, are already considered to be Catholic cities. Are they the most moral in America?

Now, then, may we not ask the "Morning Star" how a sincere and well taught theologian and historian can truthfully defend the statements of Cardinal Gibbons? Have we not a right to look for enlightenment from the "Morning Star"?

Devotional and Selections

THE YOUNG MINISTER'S PRAYER.

G. M. M.

Guide me, O Lord, as Thou didst guide
The three wise men of old;
That naught of ill my steps betide
As I lead to the fold,
The lambs o'er which Thou placest me;
And give me power and might
That I may lead them safe to Thee
And save them from the night.

Help me, O Lord, to fix mine eye
Upon that radiant star,
That shines above thy Holy Head
And sheds its radiance far
Out o'er the path my feet may tread,
As home I lead thy sheep
And when within the fold they're safe
Lord, do Thou by them keep.

Teach me, O Lord, Thy way to know
So simply and so well,
That when my feet too feeble grow
To lead, I then may tell
To younger shepherds of the way,
And with them, in Thy fold,
Lay precious jewels at Thy feet,
As wise men did of old.

Roanoke, Va.

THE WAY TO KILL A CHURCH.

1. Do not attend the prayer service.
2. Miss at least one service each Sabbath day.
3. Never attend the Sunday-school.
4. Arrive late at all the services you do attend.
5. Try to sleep at least part of the time during the sermon.
6. Be sure to be present when there is a strange